

October 8, 1964

Miss Cheryl Welch
1418 Argyll
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Cheryl:

There is absolutely nothing I can add to the numerous newspaper reports and the findings of the Warren Commission with regard to the deaths of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald.

Very truly yours,


J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

es

John A. Davis
June 1881
London,

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the above named subject. I am sorry to hear that you are not satisfied with the results of the examination. I am sure that the same will be repeated as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,
J. A. Davis

1-18-64
Wichita, Kansas
Phone 2-1764

Chief of Police
Police Department
Wichita, Kan.

Dear Sir:

Would you please send me some information on the old Leavenworth State. And please send me some information on Lee Harvey Oswald. and if you can send.

Yours sincerely
Ray Smith

Wallkill N Y

Police Chief Jesse Curry
Dallas, Tex.

Dear Mr. Curry

I am a retired American citizen 70 years old and a
veteran of World War 1.

As a hobby, I have recently started saving remembrances of the
terrible tragety that happened to our late President Kennedy.

Would you be so kind, Mr. Curry as to sign the enclosed card
as I would like to have it amongst my collection very much.

Thanking you for this big favor I am

Sincerely

August Folkard

Ret'd. Nov. 5, '64

Kimberly Coin & Stamp Museum
435 N. Main Street
Kimberly, Wisconsin 54136

October 29, 1964

Chief of Police
Chief Curry
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir:

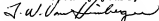
With the help of Mrs. Rose Kennedy's secretary, we are in the making of a special John F. Kennedy section for our museum. We are getting signatures on First Day Covers (like the two inclosed) of all the people and friends of our late President.

Your signature on both of these covers would give our museum another "Building Block."

I am enclosing a self-addressed and stamped envelope for your convenience. Return the cover in these envelopes.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Numismatically yours,



T.W. Van Himbergen

cc/rk

Gift 11-2

November 12, 1964

Jim Gassel
3472 West Arthur Street
Lincolnwood 45, Illinois

Dear Jim:

If it were permissible for me to disseminate information about the assassination it would be impossible to reply to the hundreds of inquiries such as yours which I have received since November 22, 1963.

I am sure you will be able to find all the information you require from the Warren Commission's official report.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

es

3472 N. Arthur
Lincolnwood 45, Ill.
October 28, 1968

Dallas Police Headquarters
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sirs,

I am a sixth grade student at Lincoln Hall, in Lincolnwood, a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. My reading class is doing a report about the ~~assination~~ assassination of the late John F. Kennedy. Can you please try to send us some information about it. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jim Gossel

NATIONAL GUARDIAN N.Y., N.Y.



The Cincinnati Post and Times-Star

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER
 DICK THORNBURG NIEL DUNKER
 Editor Business Manager

PO BOX 1000
 CINCINNATI, OH 45201

Phone 191-1111

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

The Police and The Press in Dallas

"It seemed like there was a great demand by the general public to know what was going on."—Chief J. E. Curry of the Dallas Police Department.

While exercising admirable restraint in dealing with errors and omissions leading up to the assassination of President Kennedy, the Dallas Commission takes a curiously accusing attitude as to the way news of that tragedy was handled—by the general news media and by the police of Dallas.

Here was a catastrophe involving the stability of the United States government and even the welfare of the whole free world. The air immediately was thick with rumors of plots involving foreign governments and domestic conspirators. Most action against aspects was to be feared. Even war was not out of the question should belief spread that an enemy country had a hand in the assassination.

It was a time when the national interest demanded facts with the utmost speed. It is a matter of record that the combined efforts of newspapers, radio and TV furnished the facts which reassured a shocked nation.

How thoroughly and how accurately this information job was done is indicated by the Warren report. After 10 months of work, with the power to call witnesses and with all the government's investigative facilities at their command, these distinguished and able commissioners were unable to develop a single new fact of substance. The people had been told the truth and, with the exception of some minor details, the whole truth, within hours of the event.

News coverage and police work after the assassination were job done under explosive emotional tension. And yet the Warren report finds it on (to use the half-civilized grounds that a theoretical jury in a theoretical trial of Lee Harvey Oswald might have been prejudiced by some of the news reports).

We submit that the barest bones of evidence in this case—which certainly couldn't have been withheld even in deference to legislative squeamishness—would have caused any citizen to form an opinion. In the sense that a juror should enter the box without intimate prior knowledge of the case, it would have been hard to find a wholly unprejudiced (or as far away as South Viet Nam, if there

And the commission adds, in building up the case against press and police: "The erroneous statements became the basis for distorted reconstructions and misrepresentations." What were these errors? A policeman looked at the gun and thought it was a German-made. Actually it was Italian. The chicken bones found on the sixth floor of the schoolbook building weren't the remains of Oswald's lunch. Another man had eaten there. The map found in Oswald's room was not, as first contended, an outline of the President's route. The name of the taxi driver who picked up Oswald was misinterpreted.

None of these errors had any substantial bearing on the main story or confused anyone for long. Leadership of the Dallas Police Department obviously is in the hands of decent men, pretty competent men, too, as is evidenced by their prompt arrest of the assassin.

Over the years they had established a relationship of mutual respect and confidence with the news men. Aghast at the enormity of the crime which had been committed in their city, they didn't stop to think that a system which had worked with maybe half a dozen assassins wouldn't work with the 200 or so who demoralized upon them.

This was a serious error, which no one now denies, it caused the inexcusable attempt to make a public transfer of Oswald to another jail which resulted in his death. But it was an error committed in a tense, unreal atmosphere by men who lacked experience with crime of that enormity. And even though it was a terrible blunder, it did develop from good intentions.

The Dallas police believed that the people had a right to know what was being done. They were anxious to avoid suspicion they had fabricated a suspect and were trying to pin something on him. They were careful to stop rumors of brutality. As one police official said they didn't want to be accused of "Despots" tactics.

If they had it to do over, we are certain they would do many things differently—as who among all those involved would not?—but in our opinion the Dallas Police Department has become far more than its just share of the blame in connection with the assassination.

As to the press—newspapers, TV and radio—Warren Commission complaint as to "unfortunate lack of self-discipline" in a way may be justified. But

facilities at their command. These disadvantaged and while commentators were unable to develop a single new fact of substance. The people had been told the truth and with the exception of some minor details, the whole truth, within hours of the event.

News coverage and police work after the assassination were jobs done under explosive emotional tension. And yet the Warren report falls it on the one hand—on the grounds that a theoretical jury in a theoretical trial of Lee Harvey Oswald might have been prejudiced by some of the news reports.

We submit that the barest bones of evidence in this case—which certainly couldn't have been withheld even in deference to legislative squeamishness—would have caused any citizen to form an opinion in the sense that a juror should enter the box with, not intimate prior knowledge of the case, it would have been hard to find a wholly unprejudiced juror so far away in South Viet Nam, if there.

And the commission adds, in building up the case against press and police: "The erroneous disclosure and interpretation of the Warren report... became the basis for distorted news coverage and interpretations." What were these errors? A policeman looked at the gun and thought it was of German make. Actually it was Italian. The children's house found on the sixth floor of the schoolbook building weren't the remains of Oswald's lunch. Another man had eaten there. The man found in Oswald's room was not, as first concluded, an outline of the President's route. The name of the taxi driver who picked up Oswald was mispronounced.

None of these errors had any substantial bearing on the main story or confused anyone for long.

Leadership of the Dallas Police Department obviously is in the hands of decent men: pretty competent men, too, as is evidenced by their prompt arrest of the assassin.

Over the years they had established a relationship of mutual respect and confidence with the newsmen. Aghast at the enormity of the crime which had been committed in their city, they didn't stop to think that a system which had worked with maybe half a dozen reporters wouldn't work with the 300 or so who descended upon them.

Thus was a serious error, which no one now denies, it caused the ineffectual attempt to make a public transfer of Oswald to another jail which resulted in his death. But it was an error committed in a tense, unusual atmosphere by men who lacked experience with crime of that enormity. And even though it was a terrible blunder, it did develop from good intentions.

The Dallas police believed that the people had a right to know what was being done. They were anxious to avoid suspicion they had fabricated a suspect and were trying to pin something on him. They were careful to nip rumors of brutality. As one police official said, they didn't want to be accused of "Gestapo" tactics.

If they had it to do over, we are certain they would do many things differently—as who among all those involved would not?—but in our opinion the Dallas Police Department has borne far more than its just share of the blame in connection with the assassination.

As to the press—newspapers, TV and radio—Warren Commission comment as to "regrettable lack of self discipline" in a way may be justified. But this was so little more than holding the newsmen, too, were under unprecedented pressure.

A principal fault among the news media, it seems to us, was a failure to realize that new techniques of news gathering are compelled by the coming of radio and TV, particularly TV.

Formerly the pack of newsmen, which would not have been a fraction of the size of that which gathered in Dallas Nor would it have been encumbered with great cameras, cables, king lights, microphones and the array of technicians necessary to operate them.

All this caused great confusion in Dallas, but the fact remains that in the case of the brutal tragedy in Dallas the newsmen, with all their obvious faults, did get the essential facts out to the country and got them out fast enough to head off the ugly rumors that develop automatically when news is suppressed or carelessly reported.

The transition in government was accomplished in orderly fashion. There were no mobs, no foreign complications.

Like all agencies involved the news media made their mistakes and should profit from this experience and correct them. But the free, if imperfect, press did its appointed job in Dallas and for that, the least, the only important feature of its performance, we offer no apologies.